



# The Watch Dial



JAMES CITY COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

OCTOBER EDITION 2010

A SERVICE OF THE COMMUNITY  
SERVICES UNIT

## James City County Police Department Community Services Unit provides many services

*From mentoring, teaching RAD and radKIDS, assisting neighborhoods and businesses with Neighborhood watch and Business Watch, holding bike rodeos, doing community presentations, and home security surveys, CSU continues to make a difference in crime prevention for James City County*

James City County Police Department's Community Services Unit participates in many events throughout the year. These events help ensure that the citizens of the County are provided with crime prevention information and information about the services that the James City

County Police Department provides to citizens.

This summer the Unit participated in the annual County Fair, held several bike rodeos to facilitate children's safety while on bicycles, held Firearm Safety courses, National Night Out events, RAD and radKIDS safety courses, and neighborhood and business watch meetings. The Unit also provided numerous home security surveys to ensure citizens are doing everything possible to protect their homes.

Over 250 kids ages 5-12 enrolled in the James City County Parks and Recreation summer program went through the GREAT (Gang Resistance Education and Training program) and radKIDS (Resisting Aggression Defensively, a self empowerment



program for kids ages 5-12) .

James City County Police Department offers house checks if you go out of town. You can call James City County Dispatch at 757-566-0112. By contacting JCC Dispatch when you go out of town it allows patrol officers to be aware to check on your residence to ensure it is secure while you are out of town and can provide you with peace of mind.

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*Working in Partnership with all Citizens to achieve a Quality Community*

# HALLOWEEN... is just around the corner...



## ***Important Safety Information and Law review for Halloween***

**Trick-or-treat hours in James City County are from 6 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, October 31 for children ages 12 and under. County Police recommend the following tips for a safe Halloween night:**



- Costumes should be easy to walk in and short enough to avoid tripping. They should be made out of non-flammable material and easy to see in the dark. Reflective tape sewn onto the costume works well.
- Makeup should be worn instead of a mask. Makeup helps trick-or-treaters see and breathe easily. If masks are worn, they should be taken off before crossing a street.
- Trick-or-treaters should plan their route ahead of time, picking streets that are in familiar neighborhoods and well lit.
- Young children should never trick-or-treat without an adult or older sibling. Older children who trick-or-treat without an adult should do so in a group with the route and return time approved by the caretaker. A flashlight or glow stick should be carried to light the way and to be more visible to cars. Only go to homes with the porch light on.
- Trick-or-treaters should cross only at corners, never between parked cars or in the middle of the block. When possible, they should stay on the sidewalk. If there isn't a sidewalk, they should stay as far to the left of the roadway as possible and walk facing traffic. When approaching a house, they should watch for candles in Jack-O-Lanterns or other decorations that may catch clothes on fire.
- Trick-or-treaters should never go into the home of a stranger, even if they are invited in.
- Candy should not be eaten until after it has been checked out by an adult. Treats not in their original packaging should be thrown away. Any suspicious candy should be reported to the Police Department as soon as possible.

Finally, James City County Police would like to remind anyone who will be out driving to watch for children trick-or-treating as they might forget to watch out for you.

## OCTOBER IS CRIME PREVENTION MONTH

### Identity Theft on the Rise

According to the latest statistics, 3.6 million households are victimized by identity theft and fifty-three percent of identity theft victims reported their identities stolen by someone they knew.

Identity theft is when a perpetrator assumes someone's identity for personal or financial gain, like stealing a credit card to make financial transactions in the victim's name. It is one of the fastest growing crimes in America.

Follow these tips to help ensure that you don't become a victim.

### Mail Matters

- Don't put outgoing mail, especially bill payments, in personal curbside mailboxes. Use United States Postal Service mailboxes instead, or better yet, drop off your mail inside a post office.
- Use a locked mailbox with a slot at home, if at all possible.
- Don't put outgoing mail in an unguarded "out box" at work.
- Don't write your account number on the outside of envelopes containing bill payments
- When you're out of town, have the post office hold your mail for you, or have someone you trust pick it up everyday.

### E-Commerce

- Pay your bills online using a secure site if that service is available.
- Don't give out your credit card number on the Internet unless it is encrypted on a secure site

### Personal Finance

- Examine your credit reports from the major national credit reporting firms at least once a year to make sure no one has established credit in your name or is ruining your credit after stealing your identity. The recently enacted Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act requires that each of the major three credit reporting agencies provide consumers with a free credit report once a year.



- Shred all financial statements, billing statements, and "pre-approved" credit card offers and the like before throwing them in the trash. Cross-cut shredding is best. No shredder? Use scissors to cut documents.
- Cancel all credit cards that you have not used in the last six months. Open credit is a prime target if an identity thief spies it in your credit report.

### Banking

- Examine all of your bank and credit cards statements each month for mistakes or unfamiliar charges that might be a sign of an identity thief at work.
- Make sure you know when your bills and bank statements normally arrive. If one is late, call to find out why. It may have fallen into the wrong hands.
- Use direct deposit, whenever possible, instead of a paper paycheck.
- Don't have new checks mailed to you at home; pick them up at the bank.

### Strictly Confidential

- Commit all your passwords to memory. Never write them down or carry them with you.
- Even in your home lock up your financial or personal information.
- Give out your Social Security number only when absolutely necessary. Treat it as confidential
- Destroy the hard drive of your computer if you are selling it, giving it to charity, or otherwise disposing of it.
- Keep your personal information confidential and learn as much as you can about the various kinds of scams being perpetrated to steal your identity.
- Burglar-proof your home, then burglar-proof what's inside your home, especially financial records and important documents (put them inside a locked filing cabinet or safe)

Source: [www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org)  
National Crime Prevention Council

## SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

For twenty three million students nationwide, the school day begins and ends with a trip on a school bus. The greatest risk is not riding the bus, but approaching and leaving the bus.



### DRIVERS

- When backing out a driveway or leaving a garage, watch out for children walking or bicycling to school.
- When driving in neighborhoods with school zones, watch out for young people who may be thinking about getting to school, but may not be thinking of getting there safely.
- Slow down. Watch for children walking in the street, especially if there are no sidewalks in the neighborhood
- Slow down. Watch for children playing and congregating near bus stops.
- Be alert. Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking for traffic
- Learn to obey the school bus laws. Learn the "Flashing signal light system" that school bus drivers use to alert motorists of pending actions.
  - \* **YELLOW** flashing lights indicate that the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop their vehicles.
  - \* **RED** flashing lights and extended stop signs indicate that the bus has stopped, and that children are getting on or off. Motorists **MUST** stop their cars and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop sign is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving before they can start driving again.

### CHILDREN

- Get to the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- When the bus approaches, stand at least three giant steps away from the curb, and line up away from the street
- Wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says that it's okay before stepping onto the bus
- If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk on the sidewalk or along the side of the road to a point at least five giant steps ahead of the bus before you cross. Be sure that the bus driver can see you and you can see the bus driver
- Use the handrails to avoid falls. When exiting the bus, be careful that clothing with drawstrings, and book bags with straps don't get caught in the handrails or doors.
- Never walk behind the bus
- Walk at least three giant steps away from the side of the bus
- If you drop something near the bus, tell the bus driver. Never try to pick it up because the driver may not be able to see you.

### PARENTS

- Teach you children to follow these common sense practices to make school bus transportation safer.



## VOLUNTEERS IN POLICE SERVICES HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE COUNTY

The James City County Volunteers in Policing Service are a team of trained citizen volunteers who assist Police with non-enforcement duties that allow Officers to focus on crime prevention. Volunteers can be an important part of any organization and are proven to be a valuable asset to law enforcement agencies. Volunteers help to increase police responsiveness, service delivery, and information distribution, and they provide new program opportunities. In addition, volunteers can bring new skills and expertise to the job and prompt new enthusiasm.

Police Volunteers receive training in many areas, including Crime Prevention, Child ID and etc. Volunteers must fill out a James City County volunteer application and pass a background check. Once accepted the volunteer will receive a VIPS shirt and ID badge. Volunteers do not take enforcement action, carry weapons, or make arrests.

### Why become a Police Volunteer?

- Become an integral part of the James City County Police Department partnership with its community
- Assist with crime prevention materials distribution at public events
- Meet new people
- Gain valuable work experience
- Take pride in knowing you are part of the solution in crime prevention



## OFFICER PROFILE

In each Watch Dial edition an officer will be profiled. Master Officer Kelly Saponaro, has been an officer with James City County Police Department for over 9 years and has served as a patrol officer, Field Training Officer, Investigator, and is currently a Crime Prevention Officer.

Officer Saponaro enjoys working with kids and teaching the radKIDS self empowerment program throughout the county for children ages 5-12. She is the Crime Prevention Officer for the lower part of the County.

When not working Officer Saponaro enjoys road cycling, going to the beach, spending time with family and volunteering. She was the founding President of a non-profit organization, Law Enforcement United, in 2009 which raises money for Concerns of Police Survivors and Officer Down Memorial Page. They raised \$150,000 for COPS and \$20,000 for ODMP in their 1st year. She also served as a mentor in July 2010 at the Concerns of Police Survivors Kids Camp to seven 10 yr old little girls who lost their fathers in the line of duty.



Master Officer  
Kelly Saponaro